

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

MONROEVILLE CHURCH,

MONROE CO., ALABAMA,

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 22, 1877.

MEMPHIS:

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, 344 SECOND STREET.

1877.

MINUTES.

MONROEVILLE CHURCH, MONROE COUNTY, (September 22d, 1877.)

THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment with the Monroeville Baptist Church.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Eld. J. E. Bell, from Hebrews, XII chapter, 2d verse.

After a recess of an hour, the delegates assembled in the church and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. G. Curry; and after singing, and prayer by Elder J. Spence, the Moderator announced the Association ready for the transaction of business.

The Moderator appointed brethren J. W. Leslee, B. F. Riley and J. P. Watkins to read the letters. The letters were read and contents noted (see Tabular Statement); and the names of the delegates enrolled, to-wit:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Claiborne—R. A. Lambert, John Thomas, G. W. Carter.
Zion—Elder J. M. Williams, L. W. Duke, Thomas Morton.
Salem—A. King, W. J. Newberry, J. H. Newberry.
Philadelphia—W. G. Curry, W. A. Locke, W. T. Nettles.
Monroeville—Dixon Hestle, T. J. Emmons, John DeLoach.
Pleasant Ridge—E. T. Andress, H. C. Harper, Levy Gulsby.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Pilgrims' Rest—J. B. Colley, J. E. Deer, E. P. Lovelace.
Point Pleasant—S. L. Lowry, Robt. Steel.
Ramah—J. S. Martin, A. P. Thames, B. Bradberry.
Brooklyn—A. J. Robinson, C. A. Thames, J. M. Robinson.
Arkadelphia—James Norred, Isaac Hines, A. H. Stokes.
Bellville—E. Cline, James Straughn, C. D. Gulley, J. C. Donald.
Bethany—A. G. Duke, B. Sherley, J. P. Watkins.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Old Town—J. Spence, J. A. Murphy, James Kelly.
Antioch—Bagby Hale, G. E. Mize, J. W. Lang.
Evergreen—Y. M. Rabb, J. T. Fincher, G. R. Farnham.
Georgiana—J. E. Bell, J. M. Fortune, I. R. Eskew, E. C. Milner.

Brushy Creek—M. F. Fail, J. W. Cawthorne.

New Prospect—H. C. Parker, J. M. Smith, J. D. Bryan.

Sepulga—J. P. Purnel, W. H. Smith, Steven Smith.

Midway—John Hardee.

Mt. Carmel—J. Chancellor.

On motion, received brother J. Chancellor a delegate, from Mt. Carmel Church, he being present without letter.

Proceeded to the election of officers for perfecting organization, which resulted in the re-election of Elder W. C. Curry, Moderator; John DeLoach, Clerk; and G. R. Farnham, Treasurer.

The Moderator announced the Committee on Preaching, to-wit: Elder John M. Williams, Thomas Morton, John P. Watkins and the Deacons of Monroeville Church.

Petitionary letters were called for. Received a petitionary letter from Midway Church with a letter of dismissal from the Pine Barren Association, which was read, and on motion was received as a member of this body, and theright hand of fellowship extended her delegates.

Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies was called for.

From the State Convention—Received Elder T. M. Bailey, Corresponding Secretary of the State Board, and invited him to a seat with us.

From the Alabama Association—Elder B. H. Crumpton, and invited him to a seat with us.

From Pine Barren Association—Received her Messengers, S. W. Leslie, Allen Lacy, B. F. Riley, G. W. Riley, A. M. Leslie, Judson Jones and Elder P. J. Cree.

Brother Y. M. Rabb, Chairman of the Committee to revise the Constitution and Rules of Order of this Association, made his report, and on motion the further consideration thereof was postponed until Monday morning, ten o'clock, and made the special order for that hour.

The Moderator announced the appointment of Standing Committees as follows:

On State of Religion—Elder L. W. Duke, James Straughn, T. Morton, James Tucker, G. W. Carter.

On Periodicals and Publications—G. R. Farnham, E. C. Milner, E. P. Lovelace, James Norred, J. H. Newberry.

On Queries and Requests—J. M. Fortune, E. Cline, B. Sherley, D. Hestle, W. D. McWilliam.

On Correspondence—J. B. Colley, John Hardee, R. A. Lambert, C. A. Thomas, Isaac Hines.

On Finance—E. C. Milner, J. P. Watkins, T. J. Emmons.

The Committee on Preaching reported as follows:

Services to-night at candle-light by Elder J. M. Fortune; on Sabbath at eleven o'clock, at the Baptist Church, by Elder T. M. Bailey, and at the Presbyterian Church, the same hour, by Elder B. H. Crumpton.

On motion, the Association adjourned to Monday morning, half-past eight o'clock. Prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey.

On Sabbath the ministers preached in the order of their appointment to large and attentive audiences; and after the morning services a collection was taken up for Associational purposes, amounting to \$16 '00.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1877.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. M. Fortune.

The minutes of Saturday read, corrected and adopted.

Bro. E. C. Milner, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Missions, made his report, and during the pendency of the report, the hour set by previous order having arrived, on motion, the regular order of business was suspended, to further consider the report now under consideration, and after considerable discussion the report was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The hour having arrived set by special order to take up the Report of the Committee to revise the Constitution and Rules of Order, on motion of Elder J. E. Bell that the Constitution be taken up and read and be adopted Article by Article, and being so considered, was adopted by the Association. (See Constitution.)

On motion, the Rules of Order was taken up and read, and on motion was adopted by the Association. (See Rules of Order.)

Bro. T. S. Wiggins, Chairman of the Committee on State Missions, made his report, which, on motion, was received, amended and adopted. (See Appendix B.)

Bro. J. P. Watkins, Chairman of Committee on Sabbath-schools, made his report, and on motion was received and adopted. (See Appendix C.)

Elder L. W. Duke, Chairman of the Committee on State of Religion, made his report, which, on motion, was adopted. (See Appendix D.)

Elder J. M. Fortune, Chairman of the Committee on Queries and Requests, made his report, and on motion was adopted. (See Appendix E.)

Bro. G. R. Farnham, Chairman of the Committee on Peri-

odicals and Publications, made his report, and on motion was received and adopted. (See Appendix F.)

Bro. J. B. Colley, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, made his report, and on motion, was received and adopted. (See Appendix G.)

On motion of Eld. J. E. Bell, that the Committee on Preaching select and report to this body, ministers to preach the Annual and Missionary Sermons at the next session of this Association.

Eld. J. E. Bell offered the following resolution, which on motion, was adopted :

Resolved, That this Association encourage by every means they possess, the education of the young brethren in our bounds who desire to devote their time and talents to the preaching of the Gospel.

The Committee on Preaching reported that they had selected Elder L. W. Duke to preach the Annual Sermon at the next session of this body, and as alternate, Elder J. M. Fortune, and Elder W. G. Curry to preach a sermon on Missions.

Brother Y. M. Rabb offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association be instructed to exclude every thing from publication in our minutes except the proceedings of the body.

Bro. E. C. Milner, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, made his report, which on motion was adopted. (See Appendix H.)

Appointed correspondents as follows :

To the Pine Barren Association—Elder L. W. Duke, Thos. Morton, W. A. Locke, A. King, T. J. Emmons, W. G. Curry.

To the Alabama Association—Elder J. E. Bell, J. M. Fortune, G. E. Mize, E. C. Milner, G. R. Farnham.

To the Zion Association—Elder J. M. Fortune, G. E. Mize.

To the Elm Association—E. P. Lovelace, Y. M. Rabb, J. B. Colley, J. E. Deer.

To the State Convention—G. R. Farnham, W. G. Curry, L. W. Duke, J. E. Bell.

Brother G. R. Farnham offered the following resolution ;

Resolved, That the Clerk have printed and furnish each Church a copy of a letter to be sent by the Church to the Association as their Associational letter.

Appointment of Standing Committees to report at the next session of this body :

On State Missions—G. R. Farnham, J. B. Colley, James Straughn, John Thomas, W. A. Locke.

On Foreign Missions—Elder J. E. Bell, I. K. Eskew, E. P. Lovelace, J. F. Fincher, L. W. Duke.

On Sabbath Schools—Y. M. Rabb, J. P. Watkins, E. Cline, J. E. Deer, T. J. Emmons.

Brother G. R. Farnham, Treasurer, made his report, which on motion was received and adopted. (See Appendix I.)

Elder J. E. Bell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the brethren of the Monroeville Church and community are entitled to the hearty thanks of this body for the very hospitable manner in which they have entertained us; and also the Presbyterian and Methodist brethren for the use of their houses of worship so kindly tendered us.

On motion of Elder J. E. Bell, that brother G. R. Farnham furnish the Alabama Baptist with an article and statement of the proceedings of the Bethlehem Association.

On motion of brother Y. M. Rabb, that the minute fund be turned over to the Clerk, and that he be allowed twenty dollars for his services, and the balance be expended for printing and distributing minutes.

On motion of Elder J. E. Bell, that the Association, after a harmonious session, adjourn to meet with the Pilgrims' Rest Baptist Church, Escambia County, Alabama, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1878.

W. G. CURRY, Moderator.

JOHN DELOACH, Clerk.

APPENDIX A.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report: The Savior said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." As his disciples we have not done our whole duty till we have made every effort in our power to meet the injunction. There are now over nine hundred millions of beings who have never heard this Gospel, and we owe it to them as disciples of Jesus. Let us make every effort in our power to send it to them. We recommend that, at some early day, the pastors of each church preach upon the subject of Foreign Missions, and take a collection for that object.

E. C. MILNER, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee, to whom the subject of State Missions was referred, would remind you of the great importance and necessity of this work, and deem it one which ought to be dear to the heart of every Christian. There is great need of Mission work in this as well as in other Associations of the State. Feeble churches at important points should be aided until they can become self-sustaining and in their turn become the helpers of other weak churches. The waste-places in our land, where no church organizations exist, should be visited by the living preacher and occupied if the command of our Lord to preach the Gospel to every creature is to be obeyed, and make this work successful. We must have men of capacity; men who are not afraid to do their duty; men of self-denial and denominational pride, whose hearts are full of the love of God, and deep solicitation for the salvation of souls. With a good system for this work and strong men working in it, we feel assured that success will crown our efforts. We heartily recommend the plan suggested and adopted by our State Convention of grouping together a number of Associations

forming a district, the labors in which shall be assigned to a Missionary or evangelist appointed for that work. We would also recommend the formation of ladies' Missionary Societies in the churches, and ask the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That we recognize in Brother Curry a man of competent ability, of unerring judgment, and of ripe piety, and therefore one fitted to enter upon the evangelistic work to which he has been appointed by the State Missions Boards. We heartily endorse him.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS S. WIGGINS, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS..

Your Committee on Sabbath-schools are pleased to report that Sabbath-school work and Sabbath-school interests are on the increase. The knowledge of the Scriptures must precede that Christian spirit and activity, by which the world in a great measure is to be evangelized, and our Master's kingdom extended. To read the Scripture is a great privilege and blessing, but to feel and understand their great power and beauty we must comply with the sacred command, "Search the Scriptures," *i. e.* study the Scriptures for this purpose. We most heartily recommend that the entire church membership as well as children, convene every Lord's day to study the Scriptures.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. WATKINS, Chairman,

APPENDIX D.

ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee are pained that they cannot make a favorable report of the State of Religion in our bounds. While there has been some precious revivals in some of our churches, others complain of coldness, which we attribute to a want of zeal and personal effort, both on the part of pastors and laity. The letters show that only twenty churches are represented, which report sixty-seven baptisms; five Sabbath-schools and one prayer meeting, and sixty-one and 88-100 dollars in cash for Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. DUKE, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee on Queries and Requests beg leave to report: We find requests from several of the churches that prayer be offered for them and the cause of Zion in their midst. We commend their petition to the consideration and prayers of the brethren. We also find a request from Pilgrims' Rest Church that the next session of this body be held with that church. We recommend that that request be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE, Chairman.

APPENDIX F.

ON PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report: That in their estimation the Alabama Baptist is now established upon a firm basis, ably conducted and earnestly devoted to all the interests of our denomination. We point to it with pride as the production of our denomination, and urge upon our brethren the duty they owe to themselves, their families and the spread of the Gospel, to encourage the enterprise by subscription for the paper, and by giving to it their enthusiastic support. We cheerfully recommend the use of Kind Words in our Sabbath-schools.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

ON CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bethlehem Association to corresponding Associations sendeth Christian salutation:

DEAR BRETHREN—It is with grateful hearts to God that we are permitted to report to you the Sixty-first Annual Session of this body. We regret to communicate that from reports sent up from the different churches, that the accessions by experience and baptism are less than last year, but we rejoice to state that the spirit of Missions is on the increase. Our hearts' desire and prayer to God is that the cause of God may prosper in your bounds, and that this friendly and social correspondence may be continued. It has been our good pleasure to receive the Corresponding Secretary of our State Mission Board, Elder T. M. Bailey, and also Corresponding Messengers from the Alabama Association, to-wit: Elder B. H. Crumpton; and from the Pine Barren Association, Eld. P. J. Cree, J. W. Leslee, Allen Lacy, G. W. Riley, A. M. Leslee, Judson Jones, and Elder B. F. Riley, all of which were invited to seats with us and to aid in our deliberations. Respectfully submitted,

J. B. COLLEY, Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

FINANCE REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to Report the following amounts for the objects designated:

CHURCHES.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions	Minute Fund.	CHURCHES.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Minute Fund.
Claiborne.....	85	2 00	Mt. Carmel.....	.....	.....	1 40
Salem.....	2 00	Georgiana.....	.....	.....	2 50
Zion.....	2 55	1 00	3 00	Antioch.....	.....	.....	2 50
Philadelphia.....	6 00	.....	2 50	New Prospect.....	1 00	.....	1 30
Arkadelphia.....	1 35	Brooklyn.....	.....	.....	1 00
Point Pleasant.....	1 50	Sepulga.....	.....	.....	50
Evergreen.....	8 50	2 00	Ramah.....	.....	.....	2 65
Old Town.....	50	Pilgrims' Rest.....	6 00	6 00	2 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	80	Bellville.....	.....	2 00	4 30
Brushy Creek.....	1 70	1 00	Monroeville.....	.....	.....	4 00
Bethany.....	3 25	1 65	Extra amount.....	.....	.....	4 40
Total amount Minute fund.....				\$44 30			
Total amount Foreign Missions.....				18 80			
Total amount State Missions.....				20 05			
Sabbath collection.....				16 00			

\$99 25

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. MILNER, Chairman.

APPENDIX I.

G. R. Farnham, Treasurer,

In account with the Bethlehem Association,

To amount from Finance Committee.....

DR.

\$99 25

CR.

By amount to State M. B.....\$36 05

By amount to Foreign Missions.....18 80

By amount paid Clerk.....43 40— \$99 25

Respectfully submitted

G. R. FARNHAM, Treasurer.

PLEDGES BY CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THE STATE BOARD FOR
STATE EVANGELIST.

Zion Church.....	27 75	Elizabeth Deese.....	1 00
Pilgrims' Rest Church.....	25 00	Marthy McCorry.....	50
Georgiana ".....	20 00	Mary Jenkins.....	50
Philadelphia ".....	20 00	Susan McClure.....	50
Monroeville ".....	20 00	Nancy Hexon.....	1 00
Bethany ".....	15 00	T. Z. Broughton.....	1 00
Salem ".....	5 00	T. D. Hestle.....	1 00
C. D. Gulley, P. & J. Straughn, 15 00		E. C. Straughn.....	1 00
Ramah Church.....	5 00	M. R. Wiggins.....	50
New Prospect Church.....	5 00	Carotuse Henderson.....	1 00
M. F. Fail.....	1 00	Capt Wiggins.....	50
C. A. Thames.....	5 00	Emmons.....	25
W. H. Smith, Sepulga.....	5 00	Harper.....	25
Mt. Carmel, J. Chancellor.....	1 00		
Claiborne Church.....	10 00		
Mary Bell.....	1 00		
			\$189 75

CONSTITUTION.

OF THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing their credentials shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory counsel in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It nevertheless claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every church in our union shall be entitled to two delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every Annual Session of this Association a letter specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since the last session; also post office, Sabbath meetings, by whom supplied, amount paid pastor, and the amounts contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body and the number, average attendance at Sabbath-school.

ART. IV. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep correct minutes of the proceedings, but shall not be eligible for more than four consecutive meetings as Moderator or Clerk.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to secure all moneys belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session in proportion to the minute fund sent up by each individual church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a church must be inclosed in her letter certifying that she has endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer at every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled. Tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices until new are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall call the members to order and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put. Those voting in the affirmative

shall say aye, and those of contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts or deviation be called for, the delegates shall divide, those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats and afterwards those in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of an election the Moderator may vote; on other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided, in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question provided he calls some other member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.

8. When any member is about to speak he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate.

9. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain, and the Association shall, if appealed to decide on the case but without debate. If there be no appeal the decision of the chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed, if otherwise he shall not proceed without leave of the Association.

10. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.

11. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending in the case, he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak have spoken.

12. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason excuse him.

13. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

14. Every motion must be reduced to writing if the chair or any member desire it.

15. After a motion is stated by the Chair it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

16. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit or to postpone indefinitely being decided shall again be allowed.

17. Motion to adjourn shall always be in order except the Association be engaged in voting.

18. Motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

19. On previous question there shall be no debate, all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question and pending such motion, shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise without debate.

20. The previous question shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question now be put." It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee if any upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

21. A motion for reconsideration may be made by any member voting with the majority on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

22. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

23. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

THE AMERICAN



